

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An interference pigment having a mass tone, which comprises a flake-form substrate with successive coatings of:

- (A) a colorless coating having a refractive index of $n > 1.8$ in a layer thickness of 20 – 250 nm,
- (B) a colorless coating having a refractive index of $n \leq 1.8$ in a layer thickness of 10 – 100 nm,
- (C) a colorless coating having a refractive index of $n > 1.8$ in a layer thickness of 20 – 250 nm,
- (D) an absorbent layer having a layer thickness of 1 – 100 nm, which comprises at least one: ~~metal telluride, metal lanthanide, metal phosphate, metal actinide, titanium oxynitride or titanium nitride, or a mixture thereof of two or more of the above,~~

and, optionally,

- (E) an outer protective layer.

2. (Original) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the flake-form substrate is natural or synthetic mica, glass flake, Al_2O_3 flake, SiO_2 flake or TiO_2 flake, or a mixture thereof.

3. (Original) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (A) consists of TiO_2 , ZrO_2 , ZnO or BiOCl .

4. (Original) An interference pigment according to claim 2, wherein coating (A)

consists of TiO₂, ZrO₂, ZnO or BiOCl.

5. (Original) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (B) consists of SiO₂, MgF₂, B₂O₃, AlO(OH), MgSiO₃ or Al₂O₃, or mixtures thereof.

6. (Original) An interference pigment according to claim 2, wherein coating (B) consists of SiO₂, MgF₂, B₂O₃, AlO(OH), MgSiO₃ or Al₂O₃, or mixtures thereof.

7. (Original) An interference pigment according to claim 3, wherein coating (B) consists of SiO₂, MgF₂, B₂O₃, AlO(OH), MgSiO₃ or Al₂O₃, or mixtures thereof.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) have the same composition.

14. (Original) An interference pigment according to claim 3, wherein coating (A)

and coating (C) have the same composition.

15. (Original) An interference pigment according to claim 13, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) consist of TiO₂.

16. (Original) A process for producing an interference pigment according to claim 1, which comprises coating the flake-form substrate by a wet-chemical method of hydrolytic decomposition of metal salts in aqueous medium or by a CVD or PVD process.

17. (Original) A paint, coating, printing ink, plastic, ceramic, glass, cosmetic, or laser markable composition comprising a pigment of claim 1.

18. (Previously presented) A pigment composition comprising one or more binders and one or more interference pigments according to claim 1.

19. (Original) A dry preparation comprising an interference pigment according to claim 1.

20. (Original) A dry preparation of claim 19, in the form of pellets, granules, chips or briquettes.

21. (Previously presented) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the flake-form substrate is a mixture of different substrate materials or a mixture of identical substrate materials with different particle sizes.

22. (Previously presented) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the

absorbent layer (D) has a layer thickness of 1 to 50 nm.

23. (Previously presented) An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer (D) has a layer thickness of 5 to 20 nm.